

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3177

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national program to conduct and support activities toward the goal of significantly reducing the number of cases of overweight and obesity among individuals in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 1999

Mr. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national program to conduct and support activities toward the goal of significantly reducing the number of cases of overweight and obesity among individuals in the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lifelong Improvements
5 in Food and Exercise (LIFE) Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Obesity has increased by more than 50 per-
2 cent among adults and 100 percent among children
3 and adolescents in just the past 15 years.

4 (2) Fifty percent of women over 20 are over-
5 weight.

6 (3) Obesity is associated with many of the lead-
7 ing causes of death and disability, including heart
8 disease, diabetes, certain forms of arthritis and can-
9 cer.

10 (4) The rising rates of obesity portend greater
11 disease, disability and early death, and concomitant
12 rises in health care costs and lost wages and produc-
13 tivity.

14 (5) Overweight among women is significantly
15 outstripping overweight among men, and the prob-
16 lem is getting worse decade by decade.

17 (6) Almost 25 percent of young people, ages 6-
18 17, are overweight and the percentage who are seri-
19 ously overweight has doubled in the last 30 years.

20 (7) One third of young people ages 12-21 do
21 not regularly engage in physical exercise.

22 (8) Part of the reason for youth inactivity is the
23 reduction in daily participation in high school phys-
24 ical education classes from 42 percent in 1991 to 27
25 percent in 1997.

1 (9) The lack of activity combined with poor eat-
 2 ing habits among children carries over to adulthood;
 3 25 percent of adults are totally inactive and 60 per-
 4 cent of whom engage in too little physical activity.

5 (10) Chronic diseases account for 70 percent of
 6 deaths in this country and 60 percent of medical
 7 care expenditures.

8 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION IN PREVALENCE OF OBESITY; PRO-**
 9 **GRAM FOR LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN**
 10 **FOOD AND EXERCISE.**

11 Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act
 12 (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after sec-
 13 tion 317G the following section:

14 “REDUCTION IN PREVALENCE OF OBESITY

15 “SEC. 317H. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, act-
 16 ing through the Director of the Centers for Disease Con-
 17 trol and Prevention, shall carry out a national program
 18 to conduct and support activities regarding individuals
 19 who are overweight or obese in order to make progress
 20 toward the goal of significantly reducing the number of
 21 cases of obesity among individuals in the United States.

22 “(b) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out sub-
 23 section (a), the Secretary shall (directly or through grants
 24 or contracts) carry out the following with respect to indi-
 25 viduals who are overweight:

1 “(1) Activities to train health professionals to
2 recognize that patients are overweight and to rec-
3 ommend prevention activities regarding such condi-
4 tion, including educating patients on the relationship
5 between such condition and cardiovascular disease,
6 diabetes and other health conditions, and on proper
7 nutrition and regular physical activities.

8 “(2) Activities to educate the public with re-
9 spect to the condition of being overweight, including
10 the development of a strategy for a public awareness
11 campaign.

12 “(3) The development and demonstration of
13 intervention strategies for use at worksites and in
14 community settings such as hospitals and commu-
15 nity health centers.

16 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
17 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
18 to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and
19 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years
20 2001 through 2004.”.

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